

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-139 (Canceled)

140 (New): A method for preparing a water-dispersible liquid vitamin food additive for animals, said food additive having a flashpoint about 200°F or greater, said method comprising:
sequentially adding, under agitation,

- (a) from 10% to 60% by weight of the composition of a vitamin component dissolved in from 1% to 12% by weight of the composition of an oil, the vitamin component being selected from the group consisting of:
 - (i) one or more precursors of vitamin A;
 - (ii) one or more precursors of vitamin E;
 - (iii) a mixture of one or more precursors of vitamin A and one or more precursors of vitamin E;
 - (iv) a mixture of one or more precursors of vitamin A and vitamin D3;
 - (v) a mixture of one or more precursors of vitamin E and vitamin D3;
 - and
 - (vi) a mixture of one or more precursors of vitamin A, one or more precursors of vitamin E and vitamin D3;
 - (b) from 20% to 50% of one or more veterinarily acceptable emulsifiers;
 - (c) from 2% to 15% by weight of C4 to C6 alkyl lactate;
 - (d) from 1 to 15% of water;
- and mixing until homogeneous.

141 (New). The method of claim 140, wherein said additive further comprises from 1% to 15% by weight of the composition of a veterinarily acceptable stabilizer.

142 (New). The method of claim 141, wherein the stabilizer is propylene glycol.

143 (New). The method of claim 140, wherein the C4 to C6 alkyl lactate is butyl lactate.

144 (New). The method of claim 140, wherein the additive is free of flammable alcohol.

145 (New). The method of claim 140, wherein said additive further comprises from 0.5% to 6% by weight of the composition of an antioxidant.

146 (New). The method of claim 145, wherein the antioxidant is ethoxyquin, BHT or BHA.

147 (New). The method of claim 140, wherein the viscosity of the additive is from 1000 cP to 10000 cP at 0°C.

148 (New). The method of claim 140, wherein the viscosity of the additive is from 100 cP to 2000 cP at 15°C.

149 (New). A method for dispersing a water-dispersible liquid vitamin food additive for animals comprising the step of dispersing a food additive prepared according to the method of claim 140 into water and forming a finely divided emulsion within 2 minutes when added at a ratio of said food additive to water of from 1g/kg to 50 g/kg and stirred manually at a temperature of from 15°C to 25°C.

150 (New). The method of claim 140 wherein said vitamin component is selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) a precursor of vitamin A;
- (ii) a precursor of vitamin E;
- (iii) a mixture of a precursor of vitamin A and a precursor of vitamin E;
- (iv) a mixture of a precursor of vitamin A and a precursor of vitamin D3;
- (v) a mixture of a precursor of vitamin E and a precursor of vitamin D3; and

(vi) a mixture of a precursor of vitamin A, a precursor of vitamin E and a precursor of vitamin D3.

151 (New). The method of claim 140 wherein said vitamin component is selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) retinyl propionate;
- (ii) dl alpha tocopheryl acetate;
- (iii) a mixture of retinyl propionate and dl alpha tocopheryl acetate ;
- (iv) a mixture of retinyl propionate and vitamin D3;
- (v) a mixture of dl alpha tocopheryl acetate and vitamin D3; and
- (vi) a mixture of retinyl propionate, dl alpha tocopheryl acetate and vitamin D3;

152 (New). A method for preparing a water-dispersible liquid vitamin food additive for animals, said food additive having a flashpoint about 200°F or greater, said method comprising: sequentially adding, under agitation,

- (a) from 10% to 60% by weight of the composition of a vitamin component dissolved in from 2% to 10% by weight of the composition of an oil, the vitamin component being selected from the group consisting of:
 - (i) one or more precursors of vitamin A;
 - (ii) one or more precursors of vitamin E;
 - (iii) a mixture of one or more precursors of vitamin A and one or more precursors of vitamin E;
 - (iv) a mixture of one or more precursors of vitamin A and vitamin D3;
 - (v) a mixture of one or more precursors of vitamin E and vitamin D3; and
 - (vi) a mixture of one or more precursors of vitamin A, one or more precursors of vitamin E and vitamin D3;
- (b) from 20% to 50% of one or more veterinarily acceptable emulsifiers;
- (c) from 3% to 15% by weight of C1 to C3 alkyl lactate;
- (d) from 3 to 15% of water;

and mixing until homogeneous.

153 (New). The method of claim 152, wherein said additive further comprises from 1% to 15% by weight of the composition of a veterinarily acceptable stabilizer.

154 (New). The method of claim 153, wherein the stabilizer is propylene glycol.

155 (New). The method of claim 152, wherein the C1 to C3 alkyl lactate is methyl lactate or ethyl lactate.

156 (New). The method of claim 152, wherein the additive is free of mono-hydroxy alcohol.

157 (New). The method of claim 152, wherein said additive further comprises from 0.5% to 6% by weight of the composition of an antioxidant.

158 (New). The method of claim 157, wherein the antioxidant is ethoxyquin, BHT or BHA.

159 (New). The method of claim 152, wherein the viscosity of the additive is from 100 cP to 10000 cP at 0°C.

160 (New). The method of claim 152, wherein the viscosity of the additive is from 100 cP to 2000 cP at 15°C.

161 (New). A method for dispersing a water-dispersible liquid vitamin food additive for animal comprising the step of dispersing a food additive prepared according to the method of claim 152 into water and forming a finely divided emulsion within 2 minutes when added at a ratio of said food additive to water of from 1g/kg to 50 g/kg and stirred manually at a temperature of from 15°C to 25°C.

162 (New). The method of claim 152 wherein said vitamin component is selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) a precursor of vitamin A;
- (ii) a precursor of vitamin E;
- (iii) a mixture of a precursor of vitamin A and a precursor of vitamin E;
- (iv) a mixture of a precursor of vitamin A, and precursor of vitamin E and a precursor of vitamin D3;
- (v) a mixture of a precursor of vitamin E and a precursor of vitamin D3; and
- (vi) a mixture of a precursor of vitamin A, a precursor of vitamin E and a precursor of vitamin D3;

163 (New). The method of claim 154 wherein said vitamin component is selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) retinyl propionate;
- (ii) dl alpha tocopheryl acetate;
- (iii) a mixture of retinyl propionate and dl alpha tocopheryl acetate;
- (iv) a mixture of retinyl propionate and vitamin D3;
- (v) a mixture of dl alpha tocopheryl acetate and vitamin D3; and
- (vi) a mixture of retinyl propionate, dl alpha tocopheryl acetate and vitamin D3.